

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03

RSC-01 USIA-12 PRS-01 AID-20 EB-11 NSC-10 CIEP-02

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FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1917

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: EAID, IBRD, TS

SUBJECT: MCNAMARA VISIT TO TUNISIA

1. IBRD PRESIDENT MCNAMARA CONCLUDED THREE- DAY VISIT TO TUNISIA MAY 16. IN ARRIVAL STATEMENT, HE STRESSED FRUITFUL RELATIONS BETWEEN IBRD AND TUNISIA AND BANK' S FAVORABLE REGARD FOR COUNTRY' S INTEGRATED AND BALANCED ACTIVITIES IN VARIOUS ECONOMIC SECTORS. MCNAMARA NOTED IBRD LOANS TO TUNISIA CURRENTLY TOTALED \$230 MILLION, COVERING ACTIVITIES IN SUCH DIVERSE FIELDS AS TRANSPORTATION, EDUCATION, AGRICULTURE, INDUSTRY, DEMOGRAPHICA PLANNING, PUBLIC SERVICES AND TOURISM.

2. MCNAMARA RECEIVED BY PRESIDENT BOUGUIBA WHO AFFIRMED TUNISIA WOULD DO ITS BEST TO REMAIN WORTHY OF HAVING GAINED BANK' S CONFIDENCE. PRESIDENT ALSO HOSTED LUNCHEON ATTENDED BY TOP TUNISIAN OFFICIALS.

3. PRIME MINISTER NOUIRA ALSO MET WITH MCNAMARA AND HOSTED DINNER. FOLLOWING TALKS WITH NOUIR A, MCNAMARA HELD WORKING SESSION WITH CABINET FOLLOWED BY CONFERENCE WITH CENTRAL BANK GOVERNOR GHENIMA AND HEADS OF PUBLIC
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AND PRIVATE
ENTERPRISES.

4. FROM TUNISIAN STANDPOINT, ONE OF MOST IMPORTANT ITEMS ON MCNAMARA AGENDA WAS VISIT TO MOST MODERN OF FIVE GAFSA PHOSPHATE MINES WHICH CURRENTLY PRODUCING ONLY 3.5 TONS PER DAY BUT SCHEUDLED TURN OUT OVER TWO MILLION TONS PER YEAR BY 1975. IBRD CONSIDERING LOANS OF MODERNIZATION PHOSPHATE MINES TALLING SOME \$25 MILLION OVER THE NEXT FEW YEARS.

5. COMMENT : MR. MCNAMARA GIVEN HEAD OF STATE TREATMENT INCLUDING PRESENCE FOR VISIT OF TUNISIAN AMBASSADOR TO U. S. EL GOULLI. ONLY FOREIGNERS AT NOUIRA DINNER CHARGE RELPH, USAID DIRECTOR GERARD AND UN RESREP BLICKENSTAFF. AT SMALL BOURGUIBA FUNCTION ONLY CHARGE AND USAID DIRECTOR. LATTER, FOLLOWING MEETING OF IBRD GROUP WITH BOURGUIBA AND NOUIRA, STIFF AFFAIR NOTEWORTHY FOR LACK OF CONVERSATION AT NEITHER FUNCTION DID MCNAMARA MINGLE WITH GUESTS. OUR CONTACTS WITH MCNAMARA KEPT LIMITED TO HANDSHAKE AND MINIMAL WITH OTHER IBRD VISITORS, CLARK, FOREIGN RELATIONS; HARTWIC H, AREA DIRECTOR, SIEBECK, TUNISIA DESK. NO INFO IBRD IMPLE-
MENTATION TUNISIAN PROJECTS UNDER CONSIDERATION. ON DEPARTURE MCNAMARA STRESSED TUNISIAN ECONOMIC QTE LEAP FORWARD UNQTE PAST FEW YEARS.

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